

TVMT Long-Term Planning Replacement Cycle – 2014

TVMT was established by the 2001 Legislature to provide gavel-to-gavel coverage and is administered by the Legislative Services Division. TVMT has been funded by a combination of various sources in the past, including state special revenue from lobbyists fees, general fund from the LSD portion of past Feed Bills, carryforward, and one-time only funding. In the 2009 session, TVMT funding was consolidated under a New Proposal to make funding more predictable and to enable planning. The Legislative Council had a TVMT Subcommittee in the 2007-2008 interim that recommended an expansion in transmission across Montana through Bresnan Communications (now Charter Communications) and the consolidation of the budget. At that time it was noted that the Senate cameras needed replacement and workstations needed upgrades (estimated to cost \$61,000 for 3 cameras and 3 workstations, but prior to HD). Because of the budget crunches in 2009 and 2011 sessions for the 2011 and 2013 biennia, no funding was requested for replacement and a limited present law budget was approved for maintenance and upgrade.

In 2012, we were informed that our current cameras were obsolete and could no longer be fixed. One camera in room 152 and a camera in the Senate chamber quit working. All of the equipment is in analog format, which is why it is obsolete, so it requires us to move to digital format as possible. Different room configurations are connected to specific workstations. The Senate camera and work station were also a natural place to begin the HD conversion process.

Phase I (completed)

Phase I was accomplished in the fall of 2012 using Feed Bill funds approved by the Speaker and the President for a total cost of \$91,026. We were able to replace three Senate cameras with HD cameras and upgrade one workstation to HD. This allowed the repurposing of a camera to replace the one that failed in Room 152, leaving one camera as a spare for parts or replacement if another analog camera fails.

Phase II (in progress)

Phase II was proposed for the 2015 Biennium and was approved as a New Proposal for a total cost of \$275,000. This will complete an HD upgrade of the infrastructure, which is required to transmit an HD signal and must be accomplished before the other cameras and workstations can be converted to HD.

Phase III (partially in progress)

We have been able to start on Phase III, and this summer will complete updating the analog cameras in the House Chamber, committee rooms 102 and 137, and the Old Supreme Court Chamber (Room 303). We will upgrade two more workstations and be 50% of the way to having all the workstations updated. We have purchased digital cards to put in our cameras in the smaller committee rooms on the third and fourth floors to convert them to putting out a digital (but not HD) signal.

Proposal for 2017 Biennium – Complete Phases III and IV

Remaining projects from the original Phase III will include 3 more workstations and 4 more cameras for first floor committee rooms.

Phase IV

The goal of Phase IV will be to replace the rest of our legacy equipment (original audio and video equipment that is most at risk for technical failure) and the rest of the obsolete analog broadcasting equipment. The remaining cameras on the third and fourth floors (18 cameras), sound systems for rooms 405, 422, 455, and 472, and the projector in room 405 should be upgraded. The sound systems on the fourth floor are some of the oldest in the building. This will enable us to continue our mission of compiling the recording of legislative events in the highest quality possible and allowing the public transparent access to our activities through our broadcasting services.

Recommendation for a New Proposal, One-Time-Only, 2017 Biennial Appropriation amount to complete Phase III and Phase IV for approval by 2014 Legislative Council and 2015 Legislature

Estimates (based on current 2014 expenditures)

Room Number	Equipment Needed	Cost (based on 2014 expenditures)
Rem Phase III		
Room 1 (Media Center)	Three (3) more production workstations – (AV switcher, camera control, monitors, recording equipment)	\$52,770
Room 152	Updated sound system and microphones, cameras, presentation equipment (projectors and jacks)	\$52,320
Room 172	Updated sound system and microphones, cameras, presentation equipment (projectors and jacks)	\$52,320
	Subtotal	\$157,410
Phase IV		
Room 317	6 cameras – sound enhancements	\$49,478
Room 335	Cameras	\$13,867
Room 350	Cameras	\$13,867
Room 405	Updated sound system and microphones, cameras, presentation equipment (projectors and jacks)	\$52,320
Room 422	Updated sound system, microphones and cameras	\$25,563
Room 455	Updated sound system, microphones and cameras	\$25,563
Room 472	Updated sound system, microphones and cameras	\$25,563
	Subtotal	\$206,221
	Total	\$363,631

Estimates are based on 2014 Pricing and assume an installation charge of approximately 32% of the cost of the equipment. Some labor costs may go down based on the time of installation and whether multiple jobs are completed at the same time.